

## SILVER IN THE SENATE.

## BACK TO THE TARIFF AGAIN.

## THE HOUSE RESUMES DISCUSSION OF THE FREE WOOL BILL.

## PROBABLE PASSAGE OF THE MEASURE IN A WEEK.

Washington, March 29.—The fight for the free coinage of silver will now be transferred from the House of Representatives to the Senate, and the courageous free-coinage combination which has controlled for several sessions the "deliberative branch" of Congress will make a final effort to retrieve the disaster which overtook Mr. Bland and his followers at the other end of the Capitol last Thursday.

The managers of the silver combination in the Senate were scarcely prepared for the demoralizing set-back which their cause suffered in the House, and they were relying with great confidence on the early appearance of the Bland bill in the Senate, intending to take that measure in preference to any Senate bill as a basis of this session's silver legislation.

Mr. Stewart, however, introduced a free-coinage bill early in the session, and though the Committee on Finance reported it adversely, it got a place on the calendar, whence, in case of emergency, it could be taken up for action at any time by a majority vote of the Senate. The Bland bill having been effectively side-tracked in the House, Mr. Stewart proposes now to have the Senate act upon his own bill, and he gave notice to-day that he would move on next Monday to give this bill the place of privilege on the calendar as "unfinished business."

According to Mr. Stewart's programme the silver agitation is to be kept up in Congress as vigorously as possible and by the successive passage of a free-coinage bill through the Senate it is hoped to re-split the free silver forces in the House and enable Mr. Bland to enter with renewed advantages upon another effort to enact his favorite hobby into law.

If Mr. Stewart can carry a majority of the Senate with him for his motion next Monday, the country will at least be condemned to another long and wearisome debate on the silver question, which, whether it results in the passage of a free-coinage bill or not, will do much to alarm business interests and still more to unsettle political conditions and convention prospects.

It is somewhat doubtful, however, whether the free-coinage combination of last year and the year before still has the strength necessary to control the Senate. Two years ago the Plumb-Stewart-Bland bill was passed by a majority of 17-42 votes against 25. Last winter the majority for the West bill was 12-the vote standing 39 to 27, since then there has been a marked decline of strength on the free coinage side of the Senate. Many of the changes of membership at the beginning of the present Congress were unfavorable to the silver combination, and among the Democratic adherents of free coinage who favor the renomination of Mr. Cleveland there has been a decided development of indifference and lukewarmness toward both the Stewart and Bland bills since the opening of the Presidential canvass. Mr. Plumb's death, last December, was as severe a blow as could possibly have fallen on the free-coinage forces; for it removed the most powerful and aggressive personal influence behind free silver legislation and deprived its promoters of their most skillful and active leader on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. Plumb was succeeded by Mr. Perkins, who is opposed to free coinage and the silver majority was also taken by an anti-free-coinage Republican, Mr. Felton, involving another cut of two. Other changes were equally unfavorable. Mr. Carlisle, who last year voted for free coinage, declared against it early this winter, and Mr. Standard is said to have changed his attitude recently from an unconditional to a much-modified supporter of the Stewart bill.

A careful canvass of the Senate to-day leaves it doubtful, in fact, whether Mr. Stewart can muster a majority on Monday next for the motion of continuation. There are eighty-eight members of the Senate and forty-five votes are needed by the free-coinage men to win. It looks now as if they are forty-one votes on which Mr. Stewart can probably count. Thirty-eight Senators are almost certain to oppose free coinage, and nine votes—an ample balance of power—are left doubtful. Those who are expected to oppose the Stewart bill at all stages include the twelve Senators from New England, Messrs. Hinsdale, McPherson, Blodgett, Quay, Gray, and Higgins, from the Middle States; Sherman and Bixby of Ohio; Carlisle of Kentucky; McMillan and Stockbridge, of Michigan; Culkin and Palmer, of Illinois; Sawyer and Vilas, of Wisconsin; Davis and Washburn, of Minnesota; Allard and Wilson, of Iowa; Carey and Bardsley, of North Dakota; Perkins, of Kansas; Carey and Warren, of Wyoming; Felton, of California, and Dolph, of Oregon. Of these thirty-eight out-and-out opponents of free coinage, thirty-one are Republicans and seven are Democrats.

Those likely to support Mr. Stewart's motion are twenty-six of the thirty Senators from the Southern States, the two Louisiana Senators and Messrs. Gibson, of Maryland, and Carlisle, of Kentucky, being excluded; Messrs. Carnegie of Pennsylvania; Peffer, of Kansas; Voorhees and Turpin, of Indiana; Kyle and Pettigrew, of South Dakota; Tyler and Wolcott, of Colorado; Sanders and Power, of Montana; Shoup and Dubois, of Idaho; Jones and Stewart, of Nevada, and Mitchell, of Oregon. Of those forty-one supporters of free coinage twenty-eight are Democrats, eleven Republicans and two Farmers' Alliance men.

In the doubtful list are Messrs. Hill, of New York; Gibson, of Maryland; White and Gibson, of Louisiana; Stanford, of California; Padron and Manderson, of Nebraska; and Allen and Squire, of Washington. The last five of those voted for free coinage last year, though one of them, Mr. Allen, opposed the Plumb-Stewart-Hagan bill of 1890. Messrs. White, Gibson, of Maryland, and Hill are new members. Mr. Gibson's predecessor, Mr. Wilson, opposed free coinage, but the two Maryland Senators are now likely to vote together. Mr. White's position is unknown and it is doubtful whether Mr. Hill will be able to decide at all whether to vote for or against free coinage.

Mr. Stewart is not sanguine about the passage of his bill at this session, but he says that the country ought to know how all Senators, including Presidential candidates, stand on this question, and he will endeavor to ascertain the facts by means of an actual vote.

Some of the Senate advocates of free coinage assert that Speaker Crisp has urged them to pass the bill through the Senate and send it to the House, where it would be in a place more favorable for action than in the bill reported from the House Committee on Coinage. This assertion must be incorrect, for a Senate bill could not claim any privilege which the Bland bill does not enjoy; in fact, it would occupy a less advantageous place, and nobody understands that better than the Speaker does. A rule of the last House provided that a Senate bill which was substantially the same as a bill reported from the House committee on coinage should follow the advice which Speaker Crisp is asserted to have given.

THE NEW YORK BRIDGE BILL.

Washington, March 29.—Representative Geary, of California, to-day reported to the House from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Mr. Covert's bill giving the approval of the United States Government to the erection of a bridge over the Hudson River by the New-York and New-Jersey Bridge Company. In the report accompanying the bill the committee says that the location of the bridge, as fixed by the bill, but which must be hereafter again approved by the Secretary of War before it becomes final, is at or about Seventy-eighth Street, New-York, in a direct line with the street across the river to New-Jersey, north of the southern line of Union township, Hudson County.

TO INVESTIGATE PNEUMATIC TUBE SYSTEMS.

Washington, March 29.—Senator Sawyer to-day reported favorably bill from the Committee on Post-offices and Postroads to inquire into the utility of introducing the pneumatic tube system for the transportation of mail matter between large cities. The bill provides for the appointment of three commissioners by the Postmaster-General. The committee believes the system should be adopted in cities with a minimum population of 150,000, which would include about twenty cities.

SECRETARY FOSTER ON MINT FACILITIES.

Washington, March 29 (Special).—It is reported to-night that the free-coinage Democrats in the House have not given up the effort to secure a censure rule by means of which the Bland bill may be forced to a vote. The petition to the Committee on Rules, asking for the introduction of a privileged order, is still in circulation and has now 102 signatures. Only 114 names are needed to induce the committee to bring in the rule, and the free-coinage men will make a desperate effort to get the additional twelve. More than 112 Democrats voted against laying the Bland bill on the table last Thursday night, but some of them, voted under pressure and against their own preferences, and they decline now to help Mr. Bland in his operations, for an iron-bound rule, from the operations of which there will be no further chance of escape.

MR. BLAND DOES NOT GIVE UP THE FIGHT.

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planned without any idea of adaptation for many of the mechanical and metallurgical operations at the present carried on in it, and is entirely inadequate for the proper and safe execution of the large amount of work now required of it.

THE SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION.

SENATOR WOLCOTT ON THE PROPOSED ALLOTMENT IN SEVERALTY.

Washington, March 29.—The Springer Free Wool bill will probably be passed by the House and sent to the Senate within a week. This is to be done at a series of consultations to be held between Speaker Crisp, Mr. McMillan and the Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee, and later approved by Chairman Springer. It will probably receive the formal endorsement of the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee to-morrow, and the House will then at the proper time be requested to give its concurrence by agreeing to a suspension of the rules for the passage of the bill. Under the programme contemplated general debate will probably be closed within two or three days and the bill will then be discussed for a brief time under the five-minute rule. On Monday Chairman Springer, who is rapidly recovering from his severe illness, will appear in the House, and himself make the decisive motion for the passage of the bill. He may make a few remarks in favor of the bill, but in his entire condition will not attempt any elaborate closing argument. The entire Democratic programme was discussed and practically rearranged within a period of three hours this afternoon and evening.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Free Wool bill to-day.

Mr. Hartie, of Ohio, in speaking in favor of the bill, said that the only legitimate method of raising revenue was by taxation, and when legislators entered upon the question of taxation they entered upon ethical, as well as economic ground. The only justification for the free silver forces in the House and Senate is that they are in the minority and are attempting to impose their will upon the majority of the people.

Mr. Bland, of Missouri, moved to adjourn the House to-morrow.

Mr. Stewart, however, introduced a free-coinage bill early in the session, and though the Committee on Finance reported it adversely, it got a place on the calendar, whence, in case of emergency, it could be taken up for action at any time by a majority vote of the Senate. The Bland bill having been effectively side-tracked in the House, Mr. Stewart proposes now to have the Senate act upon his own bill, and he gave notice to-day that he would move on next Monday to give this bill the place of privilege on the calendar as "unfinished business."

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